Decline in level of research work

†2667. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government accept that the lecturers selected through UGC (NET), or States conducted SLET do not pay attention towards research and as a result there is a decline in research standard at university level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to bring about a quality change in higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M.Sharma was constituted by the Government for strengthening Basic Science Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has *inter alia*, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research and creation of networking centres in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The status Report on implementation of the recommendations is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

A liberal pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been announced in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching and research.

Statement

Status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Empowered Committee for Basic Scientific Research in Indian Universities for 2008-2009.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development had set up a Task Force for rejuvenation of Basic Scientific Research in Indian Universities under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M.Sharma, former Director, UICT, Mumbai. An Empowered Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M.Sharma, former Director, UICT, Mumbai for implementation of recommendations of the Task Force. The Empowered Committee is meeting almost every month for taking action on the recommendations of the Task Force. Till date following is the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Empowered Committee:

1. 3276 JRF's @ Rs.10,000/-p.m. with a contingency grant of Rs.6000/- p.a. have been granted to each Science Departments DRS/CAS/DSA/Non-SAP.

2. Rupees Twenty Lakhs each have been sanctioned to 328 DRS/DSA/CAS Departments in Science, Bio-Science, Agricultural Sciences and Engineering Sciences for strengthening of infrastructure in terms of power supply, water supply, safety equipment, laboratories working

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

tables and infrastructure required for including the component of research at P.G. Level Programme. An expenditure of Rs.62.40 crores has been incurred so far. It has been decided that 22 departments which have been inducted at DRS level may also be released an infrastructure grant of Rs.20 lakhs each. A sum of Rs.3.80 crores has been released so far.

3. After seeing the performance of the 133 departments and receiving statement of expenditure for the grant released to the departments for infrastructural development and based on the proposals invited from each department, the committee recommended that second instalment @ Rs.30.00 lakhs may be released to the UGC approved SAP departments of DSA/CAS. Accordingly, 103 departments have been sanctioned Rs.30.90 crores @ Rs. 30.00 lakhs each.

4. All State Education Secretaries have been requested to adopt uniform retirement age for the teachers.

5. A six-member committee has been constituted with Chairman, UGC and Director-General, CSIR as Co-Chairperson to work out the modalities for creating formal linkages between Universities and CSIR labs, under the collaborative programme. The first meeting of the committee was held on 5.02.2008.

6. Operation Faculty Recharge is being launched, under which 1000 faculty positions are being created and to be filled at national level through global advertisement.

7. An amount of Rs. 144 crores has been allocated for implementation of recommendations of Prof. M.M, Sharma committee for 2008-09.

8. On the recommendations of the Empowered Committee proposals have been invited for the UGC Networking Centre/Summer-Winter School from CAS and DSA departments under the UGC approved SAP scheme. The short-listed departments were called for presentation. Five departments *viz*. Department of Life Sciences, JNU, Department of Chemistry, Hyderabad University, Department of Radio Physics & Electronics, Calcutta University, Department of Biological Science, Madurai Kamraj University and Department of Materials Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have been selected for establishment of Networking Resource Centres. Selection for Networking Resource centres in other subjects is being finalized. An amount of Rs.22.50 crores has already been released to these four departments, out of the total allocated amount of Rs.45.00 crores.

9. The support has also been extended to departments other than the SAP departments under various programmes initiated by the Empowered Committee. Letters have been sent to the State, Central and Deemed to be Universities inviting proposals from the Non-SAP departments. The information received was put up before the Empowered Committee, in its meeting held on 04.01.2008 and 05.02.2008. The committee recommended an infrastructure grants and fellowships based on the faculty position, Ph.D. produced during the last five years and publications. A grant of Rs.14.35 Crores has been released so far.

10. The Committee recommended that all M.Sc. programmes shall be structured in a manner so as to include the component of research.

11. The Committee was of the view that regional workshops may be held between CAS departments and the Committee members to apprise these departments of the thinking and expectations of the Empowered Committee from these departments.

12. The UGC scheme for "D.S.Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship" has been launched. Under the scheme 500 PDFs are to be awarded under this scheme annually. Till date 69 candidates have been awarded.

13. An infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs.5 lakhs to each of the 700 science departments of 97 colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE) has been released. An expenditure of Rs.35 crores has been incurred so far.

14. An infrastructure strengthening grant of Rs.10 lakhs each to 195 Autonomous Colleges has been released. An expenditure of Rs, 19.50 crores has been incurred so far.

Recommendation of Knowledge Commission Report

2668. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring all institutions of higher education like IIMs, IITs, Medical Institutions and other Institutions imparting higher education under one umbrella under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of Knowledge Commission;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by Government; and

(e) the distribution of colleges of technical institutions in the country, State-wise, and whether his Ministry proposes to solve the problem of uneven distribution of educational institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission as well as those made by the Committee to Rejuvenate and Renovate Higher Education are inputs to policy decisions in reforming and strengthening Higher Education.

(e) State-wise details of the number of IITs, Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics as on March, 2009 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). To overcome the regional imbalance of the number of seats in various States of the country, second shift of engineering colleges/ polytechnics have been allowed in existing institutions, in those States where the number of seats available per lakh of population is less than the all India average.